

House File 351 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 351

BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the use of moneys administered by the
2 Iowa energy center for energy efficiency investments and
3 the construction of specified renewable energy generation
4 facilities.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 15.120, subsection 1, Code 2021, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *h.* To encourage energy efficiency
4 investments and the construction of renewable energy generation
5 facilities for public school districts.

6 Sec. 2. Section 15.120, Code 2021, is amended by adding the
7 following new subsection:

8 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. *a.* The governing board shall convene a
9 stakeholder group to do all of the following:

10 (1) Identify, develop, and promote best practices among
11 public school districts in using moneys from the secure an
12 advanced vision for education fund established in section
13 423F.2.

14 (2) Propose potential incentives that can be adopted to
15 encourage the use of moneys from the secure an advanced vision
16 for education fund established in section 423F.2 to finance the
17 costs of energy efficiency investments and the construction
18 of renewable energy generation facilities for elementary and
19 secondary public school buildings.

20 (3) Recommend specific energy efficiency investments and
21 the construction of specific renewable energy generation
22 facilities for elementary and secondary public school
23 buildings.

24 *b.* The stakeholder group shall submit its findings and
25 recommendations to the governing board, the center, and the
26 authority.

27 Sec. 3. Section 15.120, subsection 3, Code 2021, is amended
28 to read as follows:

29 3. *a.* The center shall employ necessary support staff.
30 The center staff shall be employees of the authority. Moneys
31 appropriated to the center shall be used to sponsor grants and
32 projects submitted on a competitive basis by Iowa businesses,
33 colleges and universities, public school districts, and private
34 nonprofit agencies and foundations, ~~and for the salaries and~~
35 ~~benefits of the employees of the center~~ including grants and

1 projects recommended pursuant to paragraph "b", and to support
 2 the work of the stakeholder group established pursuant to
 3 subsection 2A, paragraph "a". Moneys appropriated to the
 4 center shall also be used for the salaries and benefits of
 5 the employees of the center. The center may also solicit
 6 additional grants and funding from public and private nonprofit
 7 agencies and foundations.

8 *b.* The center shall prepare an annual report in coordination
 9 with the authority, which report shall contain recommendations
 10 as to energy efficiency investments and the construction of
 11 renewable energy generation facilities for elementary and
 12 secondary public school buildings. The center shall submit the
 13 report to the general assembly and the legislative services
 14 agency by January 15 of each year.

15 Sec. 4. Section 476.46, subsection 1, Code 2021, is amended
 16 to read as follows:

17 1. The Iowa energy center created under [section 15.120](#)
 18 shall establish and administer an alternate energy revolving
 19 loan program to encourage the development of alternate energy
 20 production facilities and small hydro facilities within
 21 the state, as well as energy efficiency investments and the
 22 construction of renewable energy generation facilities for
 23 elementary and secondary public school buildings.

24 Sec. 5. Section 476.46, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code
 25 2021, is amended to read as follows:

26 *c.* Moneys in the fund shall be used to provide loans for the
 27 construction of alternate energy production facilities ~~or~~, as
 28 defined in section 476.42, small hydro facilities, as defined
 29 in [section 476.42](#), and the energy efficiency investments or
 30 renewable energy generation facilities recommended by the
 31 Iowa energy center pursuant to section 15.120, subsection 3,
 32 paragraph "b".

33 Sec. 6. Section 476.46, subsection 2, paragraph d,
 34 subparagraph (2), Code 2021, is amended to read as follows:

35 (2) A facility or energy efficiency investment shall

1 be eligible for no more than one million dollars in loans
2 outstanding at any time under this program.

3 Sec. 7. Section 476.46, subsection 2, paragraph e,
4 subparagraph (2), Code 2021, is amended to read as follows:

5 (2) Any loan made pursuant to this program shall become
6 due for payment upon sale of the facility or energy efficiency
7 investment for which the loan was made.

8 EXPLANATION

9 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
10 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

11 This bill relates to the use of moneys administered by the
12 Iowa energy center.

13 The bill adds to the list of the purposes of the center
14 encouraging energy efficiency investments and the construction
15 of renewable energy generation facilities for public school
16 districts.

17 The bill requires the governing board of the center to
18 convene a stakeholder group. The bill directs the stakeholder
19 group to identify, develop, and promote best practices among
20 public school districts in using moneys from the secure an
21 advanced vision for education fund established in Code section
22 423F.2; propose potential incentives that can be adopted to
23 encourage the use of such moneys to finance the costs of energy
24 efficiency investments and the construction of renewable energy
25 generation facilities for elementary and secondary public
26 school buildings; and recommend specific energy efficiency
27 investments and the construction of specific renewable energy
28 generation facilities for such buildings.

29 The bill also requires the stakeholder group to submit its
30 findings to the governing board, the center, and the authority.
31 The bill provides that the center is to include in its annual
32 report to the general assembly and the legislative services
33 agency recommendations as to energy efficiency investments and
34 the construction of renewable energy generation facilities for
35 elementary and secondary public school buildings.

1 Current law requires the center to use moneys appropriated
2 to it to sponsor grants and projects submitted on a competitive
3 basis by Iowa businesses, colleges and universities, and
4 private nonprofit agencies and foundations, and for the
5 salaries and benefits of the employees of the center. The
6 bill adds to this list the requirement that the center use
7 such moneys to sponsor grants and projects submitted by public
8 school districts on behalf of elementary and secondary public
9 schools and recommended by the center. The bill also allows
10 the center to use moneys appropriated to it to support the work
11 of the stakeholder group.

12 The bill also makes several changes to the terms of the
13 alternate energy revolving loan program established pursuant to
14 Code section 476.46. Currently, the center is to administer
15 the program to encourage the development of alternate energy
16 production facilities and small hydro facilities within this
17 state. The bill provides the center is also to administer
18 the program to encourage the development of energy efficiency
19 investments and the construction of renewable energy generation
20 facilities for elementary and secondary public school
21 buildings. In addition, the bill allows for moneys in the
22 alternate energy revolving loan fund to be used for energy
23 efficiency investments or the construction of renewable energy
24 generation facilities recommended by the center in its annual
25 report.